

PLATFORM OF EGGLESTON OUT

Prince Edward Candidate for Superintendent Outlines His School Ideas.

ATTACKS PRESENT SYSTEM

He Charges That Exorbitant Prices Are Asked for Books. Other Issues.

Mr. J. D. Eggleston, Jr., of Farmville, the first candidate to announce himself for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, has just made a formal announcement of his candidacy, and the grounds on which he is asking support for this honor. Mr. Eggleston announced his candidacy before it was known that Dr. J. W. Southall would not be a candidate, and since that time two other candidates have entered the field.

Mr. Eggleston addresses his letter to the people of Virginia, and in it he says: "To the People of Virginia: I desire to announce my candidacy for the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, subject to the Democratic primary to be held during the coming summer."

"The new Constitution provides that the State Superintendent shall be an experienced educator." However broadly this phrase may be interpreted, the fact cannot be ignored that an essential factor in the development of every experienced educator must include the training which has resulted from his work as a teacher. In addition, his experience should be of such a varied and successful character as to place him in intelligent sympathy with every branch of public school work, and especially with country school work, since our population is largely rural, and the weakest spot in our educational system is the country school.

"As to my qualifications under this provision, I should state that since graduating from Hampden-Sydney College nineteen years ago, I have been engaged in educational work, and during this time have held the positions of teacher, principal and superintendent of both county and city schools.

Duties of the Superintendent. By constant agitation of practical and progressive measures, by informing the public through educational literature and addresses, by visiting every county and city and consulting with the authorities as to the needs of the schools, and by carefully guarding and directing the expenditure of school funds, the superintendent is in a position to lead a State-wide movement for the education of the people. With these ideals in view, it is to be regretted that public attention cannot be directed at once to their consideration. It is a duty, however, to discuss first certain conditions which hamper the progress of our school system.

The Book Question. "The new Constitution provides that the State Board of Education shall select the text books and educational appliances for use in the public free schools of the State, exercising such discretion as it may see fit in the selection of books suitable for the schools of the cities and counties, respectively." My construction of this provision, in direct contrast to that of the Department of Public Instruction, was voiced in a petition of the county school board of Prince Edward, requesting the State board to select the text books for the counties. If the board had granted this request, and a similar one passed by an almost unanimous vote of the General Assembly, the patrons of our public schools would not now be paying, in the increased price of school books, the traveling expenses of a multitude of agents, the fees of a host of local attorneys, the cost of thousands of sample books sent to the local committees, and other expenses incident to the scramble of the publishers for business. It is oppressive on the poor, heavy on the overworked teacher, and an injustice to rich and poor alike that they should be forced to pay from fifteen to fifty per cent. more for the same school books than the people of other States.

Waste of School Monies. "The school law provides that the State Superintendent shall prepare suitable registers, blank forms, and regulations for making all reports and for conducting all the necessary business under the



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Address, E. A. FULCHER, Staunton, Va.

school law." My construction of this law, in direct contrast to that of the Department of Public Instruction, is that whenever school monies can be saved thereby, it is the duty of this department to prepare all registers, blank forms and regulations, and to have these printed for and furnished to the schools at the lowest possible price. Take for example, the school registers. It is an easy matter to make a register. One fully equal, if not superior, to the New Virginia School Register, can be printed and delivered into the hands of every district clerk for twenty-five cents a copy. The Virginia School Register is sold to the school districts for seventy-five cents a copy, f. o. b. Richmond; although it can be sold, without reducing the present profit of the printer, for considerably less than one-half of its amount. No other register can be used in the State, as this one is an exclusive and compulsory single list adoption at a multiple list price. There are over nine thousand teachers in our public schools, each of whom must have a register, and this enormous profit on each register has been paid out of the district fund for at least fifty or twenty years.

"As another example, take the warrant books used by the clerks of the school districts to pay teachers and district expenses. Notwithstanding the law quoted above, the district clerks are now compelled to buy from one agent a warrant book of 200 sheets. Warrant books of the same size, and with equally good paper and binding, can be printed and sold for twenty cents a copy. This also has been going on for an indefinite period. It is not necessary at present to mention other instances.

"As we come up to the time we must have better schoolhouses, longer terms, better teachers, high schools in every county, expert supervision, and school libraries. How deplorable that these improvements are delayed from year to year because the money which the people might provide is consumed in paying excessive prices for school books and because a steady stream of thousands of dollars already provided never reaches the schools. Is this one of the reasons why our school attendance is so appallingly low? It is said by many of our educators that an increase of school taxes for schools is necessary for the conduct of a business, but the people will be slow to increase the school taxes in the future unless they are convinced of a decrease of waste in the present.

SALARIES OF TEACHERS. "Education should be the chief business of a State, and it is not economy, but extravagance, to pay inadequate wages in the conduct of a business that requires tact and trained talent. The average monthly salary of male teachers in Virginia has increased only a little over one dollar in thirty-three years, while that of female teachers has increased less than one dollar. Even including the higher salaries paid in the cities, the average salary of female teachers is only twenty-seven dollars a month, or a six month term. With the standard of requirements rising and the cost of living increasing, teachers' salaries should be advanced.

HIGH SCHOOLS. "The gap between our high schools and the colleges is a broad one and stretches

through nearly every county in the State, favor a law similar to the one introduced in the last Legislature, which provided that the State should supplement local funds raised for the purpose of conducting high schools. The law should be framed to protect the cities and the larger and more populous counties, and yet place these schools within the reach of poor and sparsely settled communities.

CONSOLIDATION AND TRANSPORTATION. "There has been a steady growth of sentiment toward consolidating small, weak schools into stronger ones. While it does not work a hardship on the students, there should be continued effort along these lines. The greatest obstacle in the way of proper consolidation and transportation is the wretched condition of our country roads. The school question and the one of consolidation, therefore, inseparable for the present.

AGRICULTURAL AND MANUAL TRAINING. "The gradual introduction of agricultural and manual training into our schools should be encouraged. Education should at life—the life of the child as it is, and as it is likely to be. That is not education which unites him to the environment most suitable for him, and encourages him to leave it for one unsuitable.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES. "The State should help the local authorities to provide libraries for the schools. This should be accomplished either by means of traveling libraries under the joint supervision of the State Librarian and the State Board of Education, or by a State appropriation to supplement local funds.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS. "The improvement of our country school houses is a necessity. The law says that 'no school house shall be contracted for or erected until the plans therefor shall have been submitted to and approved by the superintendent.' Even if this law were universally observed, it does not meet the situation. Very few superintendents, trustees or local contractors have any study of school architecture. The result is that in the construction of a majority of our country school buildings, the question of ventilation and heating is not considered beyond the plan of putting in a window and a red-hot stove the other. Yet this question is most important. The breathing of foul air by tons of thousands of our children is a matter of time. The State should at least furnish the plans and specifications of model one-room, two-room and larger school houses, from which the local authorities may choose.

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STATE AID. "Increase in local tax should be encouraged; but there can be no marked improvement in our schools and our road without additional State aid. The increasing revenues of the State will justify large expenditures in these directions.

"Good schools, good roads, good churches, rural telephones, rural free delivery of mails and traveling libraries are needed to stop the abnormal movement of population from the country to the cities; and only by co-operation can these blessings be assured to every community in the Commonwealth.

"J. D. EGGLESTON, JR.,
Superintendent Prince Edward County,
Farmville, Va., March 29, 1905."

WED STANDING IN CREEK.

Strangers, Converted at Revival, Are Baptized, Then Married.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

HUNTINGTON, W. Va., March 29.—For three weeks a revival has been going on in Lincoln county, the excitement and intensity of the preaching of Rev. Mr. Harbush has stirred the whole county, and yesterday Dora Hatfield and John Silbee, who were converted the same night, were married while standing waist-deep in the icy waters of the creek, just after the baptism. The vast throng which had gathered on the banks sang, "We Shall Meet Beyond the River."

The bride and bridegroom had never seen each other before the night of their conversion.

WORKMEN LEFT POSTS.

Judge Dunne's Eloquence Causes Explosion in Chicago.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

CHICAGO, March 29.—One man was perhaps fatally scalded and seven others were painfully burned yesterday by the explosion of a boiler at the shops of the Illinois Central Railroad Company at Burnside, a suburb.

Judge E. F. Dunne, Democratic candidate for Mayor of Chicago, had finished an address to the workmen and had left the building only a little while before the explosion occurred.

Reports of the accident made to officials of the company in Chicago say that the explosion followed the accumulation of too much steam in the boiler while workmen were away from their posts listening to Judge Dunne.

TOOK \$500 FROM LETTER.

Young Man Belonging to Prominent Family Pleads Guilty.

(By Associated Press.)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., March 29.—Arthur R. Whitner, a young man belonging to a prominent family here, pleaded guilty in the Federal Court today to having five hundred dollars from a registered letter, Whitner was employed in Jacksonville postoffice as a night registry clerk when the larceny was committed last summer. He was given a sentence of one year's imprisonment.

SHORT IN ACCOUNTS.

Former Postmaster Now Under Indictment in Florida.

(By Associated Press.)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., March 29.—William D. Ball, former postmaster at Orange Park, fourteen miles from Jacksonville, was indicted by the Federal grand jury today for embezzlement. He was charged with being short in his accounts to the government. It also developed last week that he was short in his accounts as treasurer of the city of Orange Park.

SKELETONS FOUND.

Remains of Forty People Discovered in Vancouver Cave.

(By Associated Press.)

VICTORIA, B. C., March 29.—News was received by the steamer Queen City from the Vancouver Island coast of the discovery by prospectors of a cave on the seashore between Qualicum Sound and Strathcona Bay, in which forty skeletons were found.

The prospectors found most of the skeletons intact, some of the skulls were broken. It is possible that the cave was the burial place of an Indian tribe, once numerous in that district.

GIRL TEACHER DEFIES A SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Locked Out of Building, Teaches Children on Piazza of Schoolhouse.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

WATERBURY, CONN., March 29.—Miss Florence Downey, teacher of the Hop Swamp school, Bradleyville, is holding her fort against the School Committee, which consists of one man, Albert Trelapse. She was locked out a week ago and has been teaching a few children on the piazza of the school house.

At 7 A. M. Monday she found that the school had been broken open and the lock taken away. She lighted a fire and began business. Trelapse appeared and ordered her out, but she refused to go. It is likely that friends of hers were the burglars. The lock was found in the cabbage patch of one of her opponents.

The teacher is determined to stay. She has a large number of pupils, many of whom are from Halifax, N. S., early a year ago, through a Boston agency, and was friendly toward her until a short time ago. She boarded in the family.

When the pupils were preparing to celebrate Washington's birthday Trelapse

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The Harp and "Funny Stories."

There will be two fine entertainments at the Central Young Men's Christian Association next Saturday.

At 3:30 in the afternoon a matinee for boys and girls, and at 8:30 at night an entertainment for members and friends. The attraction is the Rogers-Gulley Combination, of New York. Van Vechton Rogers, with his magnificent harp, and Charles T. Gulley, who, while a big story teller, does not deviate from the truth. It is a star course attraction.

Reserved seats go on sale to-day, Thursday, at 1 o'clock.

Whiskey Profits.

One distillery company in Kentucky turns out every seven days 1,200 barrels of sweet mash whiskey. The output for a year would be 84,000 barrels. The cost of all this to the manufacturers may be fairly estimated at \$74,000, and they receive from the wholesale trade a profit of from \$1 to \$2 per barrel. The government comes in for a nice little rakeoff, but the fellow who has to pay it all, including transportation, is the man before the bar and for whom \$24,000,000 and then goes home and beats his wife because supper isn't ready.

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